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## **News Release**

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### **4 plead guilty to counterfeiting U.S. currency**

The last of four defendants who were indicted this spring on counterfeiting charges pleaded guilty yesterday in federal court to one count of conspiracy to counterfeit United States currency.

Brandon Etimoni Olynick, 36, unknown address, entered his plea before U.S. District Court Judge Ann Montgomery July 21 in Minneapolis. The other three defendants have recently pleaded guilty each to one count of conspiracy to counterfeit U.S. currency.

Charles Thomas Ogdahl, 38, Minneapolis, pleaded guilty on July 3; Nathan Hale Reusch, 32, Dayton, pleaded guilty on July 14; and Michael Duane Tucker, 56, South St. Paul, pleaded guilty on July 15. All four men were indicted on April 8.

According to their respective plea agreements, from October 2004 through the present, the four agreed to manufacture counterfeit U.S. currency. Each defendant admitted they manufactured the currency with the intent to defraud or deceive others into believing that it was real currency and to cause others to incur financial loss. Each defendant also agreed that he was responsible for the manufacture of at least \$10,000, but less than \$30,000 in counterfeit currency.

Ogdahl, Olynick and Tucker each admitted that they used computers and peripheral equipment to manufacture the counterfeit currency, and Olynick also admitted that he altered genuine U.S. currency. Reusch admitted that he possessed materials used to assist in the manufacture of counterfeit currency, specifically obtaining paper to use.

According to a U.S. Secret Service affidavit, authorities first uncovered the counterfeiting operation in October 2004 while executing a search warrant in South St. Paul as part of a narcotics investigation. Throughout the house, police found numerous counterfeit \$20 bills, several baggies containing ink colors, 15 computers, five printers, two digital cameras, a paper shredder, media storage devices and paper containing the watermark images of President Andrew Jackson.

Olynick was found in the basement near a bank of computers, and visible on one of the screens was a watermark and the image of President Jackson.

In October 2005, the Minneapolis Police Department was executing a narcotics search warrant at a Minneapolis residence and found several people inside the home, including Olynick, Ogdahl and Reusch. Officers also found partially printed bills, computers, printers, and false identifications.

In January 2006, a search warrant for counterfeit currency was executed at the Residence Inn in Eden Prairie. Police found Ogdahl and Reusch in the room, which had been converted into a counterfeiting production space. Several computers and counterfeit currency were recovered.

All four defendants each face a potential maximum penalty of five years in prison. Judge Montgomery will determine their sentences on future dates.

This case is the result of an investigation by the Secret Service, the Dakota County Sheriff's Office, the Minnesota Financial Crimes Task Force and the police departments of Eden Prairie, Minneapolis, St. Paul, South St. Paul and West St. Paul. It is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney LeeAnn K. Bell.